

claims, and appreciation therefor is acknowledged.

In paragraph 2, the Examiner has courteously provided a copy of 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103, and in paragraph 3 the Examiner correctly presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made.

In paragraph 4, claims 1-3, 5-8, 12-15, 20, 22, 24/1-3, 24/25-8, 24/12-15, 24/20, 24/22, and 27-31 have been rejected pursuant to Sec. 103. The Examiner contends that the requirements of these claims are disclosed or suggested in Challener, in view of McClure.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection reflects a misunderstanding of the claims, and that when properly understood, the claims are not obvious – and indeed are contradicted by the cited art. For general perspective, the present invention is a system that prevents associating the identity of a voter with a vote, but enables associating demographic data with the vote. The cited art is directed to associating the voter with the vote, thereby operating contrary to the invention claimed herein.

More particularly, the Examiner contends, among other things, that Challener teaches the associating the encrypted participant identification data.... of claims 1, 28, and 29.

In response, the contention is respectfully traversed because Challener teaches “decrypt the message to determine the identity of the voter” at Col. 7, line 62. Thus, Challener *decrypts* to process the data, which contradicts and definitely does not teach or suggest the required associating the encrypted participant identification data.... No cited art teaches or suggests this requirement in Applicant’s claims.

With regard to claim 27, the situation is even clearer because the claimed associating... said encrypted participant identification data is carried out such that it is not possible to directly associate said participant identification data with either said registration data or said query-responsive digital signals .

In paragraph 5, the Examiner has graciously acknowledged that the claims 4, 9-

11, 16-19, 21, 23, 25-26, and 24/4, 24/9-11, 24/16-19, 24/21 and 24/23 are allowable over the cited art, but subject to objection in view of the art discussed above. Applicant is appreciative of the allowability and believes that the ground for rejection has been overcome with the clarification of the misunderstanding discussed above.

In paragraph 6, the Examiner has graciously considered additional art and determined it is not relied upon in the Office Action, and has also kindly provided information for communicating with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

In response, the undersigned appreciates the Examiner's courtesy and if the prosecution of this case can be in any way advanced by a telephone discussion, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (312) 240-0824.

III. CONCLUSION

The application, as amended, is believed to be in condition for allowance, and favorable action is requested. If any further extension of time for responding is required, it is requested that this be deemed a petition therefore, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fee, or credit any overcharge to, PTO Account 50-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 7, 2002


Peter K. Trzyna
(Reg. No. 32,601)

P.O. Box 7131
Chicago, IL 60680-7131

(312) 240-0824



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed by United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope with sufficient postage and addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date indicated below.

Signed:

Peter K. Trzyna (Reg. No. 2,6001)

Date:

P.K.T.
November 7, 2002

PATENT

Paper No.

File: Freeling-P1-99

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : FREELING, Kenneth A., and GEER,
Daniel E., Jr.

Serial No. : 09/455,823

Filed : 6 December 1999

For : DIGITAL COMPUTER SYSTEM AND METHODS
FOR CONDUCTING A POLL TO PRODUCE A
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE CORRESPONDING TO
AN ACCUMULATION OF RESPONSE DATA FROM
ENCRYPTED IDENTITIES

Group Art Unit : 3621

Examiner : WANG, Mary Da Zhi

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GROUP 3600

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDED VERSION OF THE CLAIMS

SIR :

Set forth below is the amended version of the claims.

27. A method for high reliability communication of demographic data from encrypted identities, the method including:

- (i.) certifying, by computer, a plurality of respective registrations by substeps

including:

receiving a plurality of respective participant registration applications including
respective participant identification data and participant demographic data; and

for any respective one of said applications accepted for authorization, issuing
respective registration data, including encrypted participant identification data and encrypted
participant demographic data; and

(ii.) using, by computer, said registration data in substeps of:

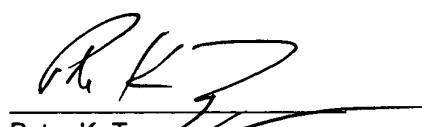
respectively receiving said registration data and query-responsive digital signals;
and

associating, by computer, said encrypted participant identification data
respectively with said registration data and said query-responsive digital signals in producing an
accumulation such that it is not possible to directly associate said participant identification data
with either said registration data or said query-responsive digital signals.

The application, as amended, is believed to be in condition for allowance, and
favorable action is requested. If any further extension of time for responding is required, it is
requested that this be deemed a petition therefore, and the Commissioner is authorized to
charge any required fee, or credit any overcharge to, PTO Account 50-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 7, 2002


Peter K. Trzyna
(Reg. No. 32,601)

P.O. Box 7131
Chicago, IL 60680-7131

(312) 240-0824